



Spring Term - Date: 11.03.2022

Talking Head

Happy Friday, and I hope you're all enjoying the joys of Spring and the light...how much more enjoyable are early morning dog walks when it's light?!

All's well here and we're fully into the swing of the second half of this term. It's amazing to think that we're past the halfway point of the year.

See you on the playground!

Ben Sutton | **Headteacher**

PS.

RED NOSE DAY!

Just to confirm, that as a school we're **not** doing anything official for RedNose Day - if children want to bring a Red Nose in to wear, that's totally fine, but we're not planning anything/asking for anything.

Wellbeing Watch

In school we use a programme called 'The 'Zones of Regulation'. This tool helps us to identify and manage our feelings.

First we learn what the emotions in each zone look and feel like. Then we learn strategies to help us manage these emotions...



= 'Feeling

ready to go!"



= feeling

sad/tired



= a bit

silly/over excited



= feeling 'out

of control'

It's great!

If you want to find out more, please talk to your child, class teacher or take a look at this video:

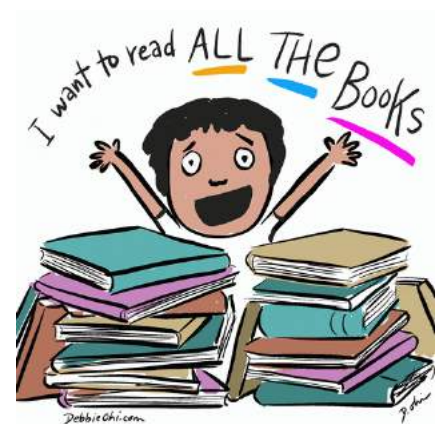
<https://www.zonesofregulation.com/index.html>

Book Fair

Thank you all for your support of yesterday's book fair. It was very successful and we have raised £240 in commission which will be spent on new books for the library.

Derek has left the £1 book tokens so the children will be bringing one home so that they can get another 1 of the WBD £1 books, these are available in supermarkets and booksellers, or £1 off any book of their choice.

Many thanks again!



MSAs - WE WANT YOU!

Join the team!

2x Midday Supervisors Posts available: starting after Easter.

Details and application packs are on the school website

<https://www.dringhouses.york.sch.uk/job-opportunities/>



Photos



WhatsApp with you?

We've found over the last couple of weeks that the number of incidents involving WhatsApp (amongst others - SnapChat/TikTok) and inappropriate content being viewed and shared has increased.

These incidents are causing anxiety in our children, and are involving increasing amounts of time out of lessons to discuss and investigate them, meaning that children are losing learning time.

We're going to begin a slightly more proactive strategy without it becoming unmanageable from a time point of view, as so many of these situations involve many children in a WhatsApp group at the same time, making it really hard for us to speak to individual families.

This weekend:

Ask your child to talk you through, and to show you their mobile device use, their chats, and the content on their devices. This isn't being intrusive, it's keeping children safe.

We're going to send some text messages out in the next few days, and into the future where we might need parents to check on an individual basis.

We will increase the work we're doing in school to ensure that children understand their responsibilities when using social media - we need you to support us by monitoring their use at home.

As ever, while we appreciate that there can be a pressure for children to have 'the same' as what their friends have where social media and devices are concerned, we must ensure that the support around having that technology is well supported, and carefully controlled.



FODS!

We had our second FODS (Friends of Dringhouses, i.e. your PTA) meeting on the 9th March and were really pleased to see a gradually increasing turnout. We got to know parents who were new to FODS and celebrated parents who have been volunteering their time with FODS.

We were particularly keen on showering multiple rounds of applause on Sally Evans, who organised the Bag2School event, which ran successfully on Friday 4th March (see picture!). There was a great sense of community building as many of you helped bring those bags to school in the rain. The bike shelter was an excellent place to temporarily store items and Becky Laing's tarpaulin kept everything dry (Thank you, Becky!). You all brought in 480 kg (approximately 100 bags) of clothes and other items, and raised £192 for the school! So thank you, everyone! And thank you, Sally!



The school hall raptured into another round of applause when Natasha Limbert and Kate Newman updated us on the prize list they've worked hard to put together for the upcoming Spring Raffle. In and amongst many other amazing prizes, they have managed to get sponsors to donate an Apple Watch (Series 3), a half spa day for two at Middlethorpe Hall, a hamper from Bettys, go karting for two at York Motorsport, and a family pass for Piglets! Your little ones will be coming home before the Easter holidays with raffle tickets (£1 each) to sell to friends and family...but with this growing list of prizes, I might be buying all the tickets my kids bring home!!

Speaking of Easter, there will also be an Easter Egg decorating competition coming up...so we might have to start thinking about grand designs for those eggs!

Thinking slightly further ahead (towards the last term of the school year), the summer fair sub-committee, chaired by the wonderful Lauren Watson, had their first meeting in the first week of March and lots of wonderful plans are being hatched (another Easter reference??) at the moment. One of those plans involves a junior bake-off! So kids, you might want to start practising those baking skills!

In addition to these wonderful events, there'll also be a KS1 and a KS2 party in June (DJs and entertainers have been booked!) and an upcoming board gaming evening for families to attend.

So why all these events?

FODS events are a great chance for building our Dringhouses community and for parents to get involved in ways they would enjoy.

FODS events (although not all) are also a way of raising funds for the school. Although the school gets funding from the government, it isn't enough. Over the years, FODS has funded things like the decking outside Class 4, the floor markings (yes, that cute caterpillar!) in the yard, benches and playground equipment, flooring for the school hall, Year 6 trips and year books, etc.

And perhaps most importantly, FODS events are about making memories for and with our kids – doing things that we will remember with fondness in years to come.

So thank you for being a part of it all!

Chia and the FODS committee

Music!

Dear Parents/Carers

A couple of dates for your diary!

I am delighted to let you know that the KS2 Curriculum Concert will take place on Thursday 31st March at 2.00pm. This is an opportunity for you to see the kinds of activities the children do in their classroom music lessons, and gives the children the opportunity to rehearse and then perform their work to a live audience.

All the children will be involved in their classes. Highlights include our 'Class Choir' songs as well as our latest musical achievements on recorders, ukeles and percussion as well as some of our current favourite assembly songs and short performances from the Choir, Orchestra and Recorder Club. It promises to be a joyful, if noisy, afternoon and it would be fantastic to welcome as many of you as possible.

The 'Rocksteady' concert will take place the following morning (April 1st) and parents/carers of children who take part in 'Rocksteady' are very welcome to come to this-details of times to follow via Rocksteady.

Please could all children have their recorders in school for their music lessons for the rest of this term. Unless you are desperate for them to practice at home (!), it is probably best if the recorders just stay in school.

How fabulous to be planning live music activities again!

Many thanks,

Clare Clarke